

When faced with opportunities to stop the Nazis, why did we miss the warning signs? How could we have failed to act? These questions speak to us today about our responsibility to act—even when others don't.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. This year, they convened an intergenerational walk with Holocaust survivors to bring awareness to the community. Pan Pacific Park was transformed into a timeline of the events of the Holocaust so that participants could learn more about the deep tragedy of Nazi atrocities. This event also shows survivors that they are not alone. They have a community around them to support them.

It is my honor to represent the Los Angeles area, which is home to approximately 10,000 survivors. This week—and every week—we honor their courage and their strength. At a time when fewer and fewer survivors are alive to tell their stories, we must all bear witness to their tremendous legacy.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 27TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

##### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2013*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, April marks the 27th annual National Alcohol Awareness Month.

As co-chair of the House Addiction, Treatment and Recovery (ATR) caucus, I rise today to talk about the importance of this milestone and to applaud the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), which since 1987 has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

Alcohol abuse is one of the leading causes of death in this country and is a huge contributor to other pressing health care problems like hypertension, high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke. Not a day goes by that we as a Caucus don't hear another story about the tragedy wrought by the abuse of alcohol. Some have even gone so far as to call the abuse of alcohol and other drugs the number one public health crisis facing this country.

This year, National Alcohol Awareness Month is highlighting the important public health issue of underage drinking, a problem with devastating individual, family and community consequences. With this year's theme, "Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow," the month of April will be filled with local, state, and national events aimed at educating people about the treatment and prevention of alcoholism. Local NCADD Affiliates as well as schools, colleges, churches, and countless other community organizations will sponsor activities that create awareness and encourage individuals and families to get help for alcohol-related problems.

Alcohol use by young people is extremely dangerous—both to themselves and to society, and is directly associated with traffic fatalities, violence, suicide, educational failure, alcohol overdose, unsafe sex and other problem behaviors. Annually, over 6,500 people under the age of 21 die from alcohol-related injuries.

Additionally:

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for America's young people, and is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined.

Each day, 7,000 kids in the United States under the age of 16 take their first drink.

More than 1,700 college students in the U.S. are killed each year—about 4.65 a day—as a result of alcohol-related injuries.

25% of U.S. children are exposed to alcohol-use disorders in their family. Underage alcohol use costs the nation an estimated \$62 billion annually.

And yet, these statistics don't fully convey the danger of underage drinking. The more we learn about the human brain, the more we learn how dangerous early drinking is for underage drinkers.

Reducing underage drinking is critical to securing a healthy future for America's youth and requires a cooperative effort from parents, schools, community organizations, business leaders, government agencies, the entertainment industry and alcohol manufacturers/retailers. Underage drinking is a complex issue, one that can only be solved through a sustained and cooperative effort. As a nation, we need to wake up to the reality that for some, alcoholism and addiction develop at a young age and that prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support are essential for them and their families. We can't afford to wait any longer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to highlight this important issue with a National Alcohol Awareness Month event in their districts. This is a problem that plagues all of our communities but working together, we can restore hope to our young people and their families.

#### GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD WINS TOP ACOE AWARD

##### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Georgia National Guard on being selected as the winner of the National Guard Special Category in the 2013 Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) awards competition.

It is a source of pride to see Georgia's own National Guard recognized for excellence. These servicemen and women have gone above and beyond the call of duty to earn this prestigious award.

The yearly ACOE competition reviews leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, and performance criteria to rank installations on their overall Army readiness and quality management. The U.S. Army chief of staff chooses National Guard installations that best exemplify these qualities.

As this year's deserving winner, the Georgia National Guard's prize will include funding towards installation upgrades that will improve facilities, and boost morale of soldiers, retirees, and civilians serving there.

Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous occasion for the State of Georgia, and it is with sincere gratitude that I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Georgia National Guard for the sacrifice and hard work

that ensures America's safety and won them this esteemed award.

HONORING FRANCIS B. GIBBS

##### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2013*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements and the unwavering commitment to public service of Francis B. Gibbs.

It seems like yesterday that Francis came to Washington to work for his hometown congressman, Ander Crenshaw. He went on to be a trusted aide and friend to U.S. Rep. Connie Mack. Francis spent over five years by Congressman Mack's side, and his fingerprints could be found on legislative matters concerning government expansion, protection of our Constitution and the principles of federalism.

Francis is a man rooted in principle. From his work on the Patriot Act to defending freedom for people in Venezuela and around the Western Hemisphere, Francis served as a tireless advocate for making this government a "more perfect Union" by protecting people's individual rights and liberty.

After his son Couper was born, Francis and his wife LeAnne—who worked for Congressman Mike Pence—decided to leave Washington to raise their new family in the Sunshine State. Francis took his drive and passion back to the Florida Department of Transportation, where he serves as the chief of staff, leveraging his experience in Washington with his knack for building consensus to get the right things done for the right reasons.

Mr. Speaker, we know all too well that the political arena can be viewed as a cold and cynical process. Francis's approach has always been different. He builds bridges and more importantly, he creates enduring friendships that remind us that there is a way to serve honorably.

Francis is now facing a fight with colon cancer. He has fought this with the same tenacity he exuded during his congressional days when he battled legislative threats to the Constitution—with passion and grace.

LeAnne, has been a constant source of strength, compassion and grace. Ernest Hemingway had somebody like LeAnne in mind when he wrote "courage is grace under fire." Their anchors are two beautiful children, Couper and Riley.

Francis has a long-term view of what America can and should be. He believes that ultimately America promises a better life for the next generation. He embodies everything that this promise stands for, and his children will live out this American Dream that their dad shaped. Over the years, legislative achievements are forgotten by the public and often become footnotes in a textbook. However, the difference that Francis made—the issues he worked on—will carry on. More importantly, the way he treated people will not be forgotten by those of us fortunate enough to spend time in these hallowed halls.

Mr. Speaker, let us today celebrate Francis Gibbs, honor his wife LeAnne, and tell his children that America will be a better place for them because of the work, love and devotion of their parents.